

The winter mean (November, December, January,) is at Aiken 48.5° F., or one and a-half degrees lower than Cannes and Mentone, but six and a-half degrees higher than Pau. Boston winter temperature averages 18.11° lower, and Chicago 16.90°, while the Toronto average is in the neighbourhood of 13°. The mean temperature of autumn is a high one, being 71°, almost a summer temperature, since the August average there is 76°.

Again he points out what is of special moment, viz.: "that points of much greater importance than the mean temperature are the annual and daily extremes of heat and cold, and the rapidity with which these changes occur." At Aiken the average daily range from these daily observations throughout the whole year is 12.65°. San Diego, amongst all the American resorts, is the only one for which the Signal Service Reports give a lower annual daily range.

Intimately related with daily range is relative humidity. Aiken in this respect has a record admirably suited to consumptives, as the average relative humidity is only 64.04%, the general average for a normal climate being given generally as about 73%. When it is stated that steel instruments may be exposed for months without rusting, we obtain an idea of the moisture of the climate; as also when we are informed that the gray tree moss (*tillandsia*), an unfailing sign of moisture in the south, is absent from trees in the neighbourhood, and cannot be cultivated. Hyeres and Cannes alone of the Riviera stations have a lower relative humidity. With rare exceptions dew is not deposited at night at Aiken, and frosts are not very frequent even in mid-winter.

Fogs are, as would be expected, rare, and the amount of cloudiness is comparatively small, while

rain is much more frequent in summer than in winter, the winter rains being usually drizzles. The average rainfall given is 46.48 inches (large compared even with Ontario and England); but of this 9.02 inches only fall in winter. This, however, is, as has often been remarked, no criterion of the dryness of a climate, as while some parts of India have a rainfall of 60 inches, England with not more than 30 inches, still has a moist, or island climate. Few American states have a less number of rainy days during the year than Aiken, while the towns of the Riviera have about the same number.

Summing up the general character of the climate Dr. Geddings says: "We find that it is moderately cool, quite dry, slightly variable, and that it has a larger proportion of fair weather than almost any American resort east of the Rocky Mountains. Comparing it with foreign sanatoria, we note that it has the same average winter temperature as Nice, Mentone and Cannes, but with a somewhat greater range; that in point of humidity it is superior to all of them, except Hyeres and Cannes, where the lesser percentage of moisture is in a measure due to the presence of the mistral." Geddings says: "Consumption, in its various stages, except the last, and in all its forms except acute tuberculosis and laryngeal phthisis," is benefited by Aiken, and advises it as a resort for such, and further suggests an early departure for the south, "so as to reach Aiken in time to enjoy the superb weather which usually prevails from the 1st of October to Christmas."

We propose giving in our issue next notes from the diary of a consumptive sent west who has sojourned in Colorado and is at present residing in Southern California.

## MEETINGS OF SOCIETIES.

### The Provincial Board of Health.

The first Quarterly Meeting of the Provincial Board of Health for 1888 took place on Tuesday, the 26th ult., the following members being present:—Dr. Rae, chairman; Dr. Covernton, Dr. Yeomans, Dr. Cassidy, Dr. Macdonald, Dr. MacKay and Dr. Bryce, secretary.

After the minutes of the last meeting were read and adopted, the secretary presented a large number of communications; one requesting the Board

to investigate the typhoid epidemic at Ottawa, others referring to outbreaks of diphtheria in different places, and a number regarding the powers of Local Boards and the methods to be legally adopted for carrying out regular inspection of milk, dairies, etc., in compliance with the regulations sent to Local Boards. The action taken in connection with each was stated. The reports of standing committees being taken up, Dr. Covernton presented a report from the Committee on Epidemic